

Teaching notes

In this documentary, the presenter, Buchi, tells us about the history of New York and its ethnic mix.

Grammar countable/uncountable, present simple and present continuous

Vocabulary countries and nationalities, transport

Background information

New York City is located on the north-east coast of the USA. It is part of the state of New York and around 8 million people live there. It is an important financial and tourist centre.

The Statue of Liberty was a gift from the French government to the American people. It took nine years to build and was completed in 1884. It is 46.5 metres tall. It is on a small island (Liberty Island) in front of the city of New York. The statue has a crown with seven spikes. In its left hand is a tablet with the Declaration of Independence written on it. In its right hand is a torch and around its feet are broken chains.

Before you watch

1a Warm up Ask students what countries they have visited. Write the countries on the board then elicit the nationalities for each country. Then ask students to continue with Exercise 1a. Give students a few minutes to complete the task then check answers.

1b Ask students what forms of transport there are in their city. Then explain the task using the example. Allow students a few minutes to complete the task, then check answers.

While you watch

2 Tell students that they are going to watch the whole video but that they only need watch for the transport from Exercise 1b. Students tick the methods of transport from Exercise 1b they see in the video. Play the whole video (00:22:34–0:25:11) then check answers.

3 Ask students to match the photos to the names, then play the video again. Allow time for students to compare their answers with a partner, then check answers.

Optional activity

Ask students if they know any English words commonly associated with New York, e.g. skyscrapers, hot dogs, 'Big Apple', subway, etc. and elicit their meanings.

4 Tell students to read the quiz. Tell them to try to answer the quiz in groups, based on what they think and what they remember from the video. Then play the whole video again and check answers.

Optional activity

Divide the class into two teams. Let students choose the name of their team. Explain that each team will complete the quiz before they watch the video. Give them a couple of minutes to read the questions and think about the answers. Then write their answers on the board and play the video. Check answers and award points for correct answers. The team with the most points is the winner.

After you watch

5a Model your own answer to this question, e.g. *I'd like know more about Ellis Island because it's an interesting historical place.* Give students a few minutes to prepare their answers then ask one or two students to read out their ideas.

5b Ask students to write their answers to the four questions and be prepared to present their information in the next lesson.

Extension activities

Lo tech Encourage students to use maps and pictures from books and magazines to prepare their presentation.

Hi tech Encourage students with access to computers to use the internet to prepare and research their presentations.

Key

1a 2 China 3 American 4 Italian 5 Ireland
6 Holland 7 Spanish 8 German

1b 2 train 3 bus 4 bicycle 5 helicopter
6 scooter 7 ship 8 plane

2 car, train, bus, bicycle, ship

3 2 d 3 a 4 b 5 c 6 f

4 2 a 3 b 4 a 5 b 6 a 7 b 8 b

5a and 5b Students' own answers.

Video script

1 Introduction 00:22:34–00:23:33

Buchi New York City! It's probably the most exciting city in the world. Its buildings are amazing – the Empire State Building is 373 metres tall! Over 8.3 million people live here. And if you catch a subway train, or walk through its streets and parks, you can hear about 180 different languages. You can't do that anywhere else in the world! You can see ethnic diversity everywhere you look. But why is there such an incredible mix of people here?

2 Immigration 00:23:34–00:24:21

Buchi Well, New York was founded by the Dutch in 1640. And because of its location on the east coast, it became the gateway to the New World. So New York has a long history of immigration... and people have come here from all over the world. The first thing the new immigrants saw was the fantastic Statue of Liberty. Then they arrived at Ellis Island – where they were processed to become American citizens. More than 12 million people passed through Ellis Island. Many immigrants moved on to other cities in the US, but hundreds of thousands stayed.

3 Ethnic groups 00:24:21–0:25:11

Buchi The largest ethnic groups today are African American, Italian, Jewish and Irish and they settled in different areas... like Little Italy. This was once the centre of Italian life in New York.

Chinatown is close by. It's the home of most of New York's ethnic Asian population, and is a major tourist attraction. There are many Asian shops and restaurants and even the road signs are in Chinese.

But whatever ethnic group the people of New York belong to today, they are all Americans... and they are all New Yorkers.